



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



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Agenda Item 9.a

COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS

In November 2005, the CMS Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution 8.11 on “Cooperation with other Conventions”. The resolution reiterated the importance of joint activities and synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions on the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target. This note contains a short overview of progress made in the implementation of that resolution by the Secretariat, since the COP.

1. Role of the CMS Secretariat in the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)

Meetings of the BLG are hosted in rotation by one of the 5 MEA members. The CMS Secretariat hosted the fourth meeting of the BLG in October 2005. Results of the meeting and a joint paper on options for enhanced cooperation were presented and discussed at the CMS COP (UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.15). As a follow up to BLG-4, the CMS Secretariat agreed to organize a joint exhibit and a side event on the work of BLG on behalf of the group at the CBD Conference of the Parties in Brazil in March 2006. However, due to the low level of interest and engagement by other members of the group both events were cancelled. A BLG joint report on the activities of the five Conventions was assembled and presented by CITES as a document for the 11th session of African Ministerial Conference on Environment, in Brazzaville in May 2006, which was attended by the Executive Secretary of CMS.

The fifth meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group will be convened at the Ramsar Convention Headquarters in Gland on 14 September 2006; a representative of the CMS Secretariat will attend. It is expected that the meeting will revitalize the activities of the group and follow up on outcomes of the fourth meeting. CMS will seek clarification on the future of the BLG following the creation by CBD of a wider biodiversity partnership task force, embracing additional bodies such as UNEP and IUCN, and which is due to hold its first meeting also in Gland on 15 September (see section 4 below). The Secretariat will argue in favour of merger or close integration between the two bodies in order to save resources.

An oral report to the Committee on the outcome of the meeting will be provided by the Secretariat.

2. Issue-based modules for coherent implementation of biodiversity conventions

The CMS Secretariat is part of the steering Group of this UNEP project. A CMS representative attended the 2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Issue-Based Modules held in Geneva on 1-2 June 2006, convened to review progress and discuss further steps in the development of the project. The group considered recommendations of the peer review for improvement of the system undertaken via e-mail in the past months. CMS had participated in the peer review and offered comments and suggestions. The group also discussed in detail proposals from previous regional

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workshops. A number of country delegates also presented their views on how the system can be used to facilitate coherent implementation of MEAs at the national level.

It is expected that a number of changes and improvements will be made to the current system, in response to the suggestions received during the meeting. In particular, it was suggested by the representative of UNEP that the project might be integrated in a wider project for data management amongst Conventions.

3. Harmonization of reporting within UNEP-CMS Family and between relevant conventions

At the last BLG meeting in October 2005, the group welcomed the updating of the joint web pages of the BLG. The group agreed to explore the feasibility of developing a joint web portal to facilitate access to national reports of the five biodiversity-related conventions. It was agreed that CBD would take the lead on this, with support from the other conventions. The rationale for this initiative is to facilitate implementation and to give additional impetus to harmonization of national reporting. Since little progress appears to have been made in this area since BLG-4, the CMS Secretariat will ask the next meeting of the BLG to make this a priority task in 2006-7.

The Division of Environmental Conventions of DEC organized a workshop on 13-16 June 2006 in Cambridge to discuss “Knowledge Management for MEAs and Harmonization of Reporting”. During this meeting it was also discussed the possible integration of the Issue-based Module project under a broader umbrella of knowledge management for MEAs. The meeting considered possibilities for integrated data management and different options, including on-line features, to facilitate reporting. More information on this issue is contained in document on CMS/StC31/10 on National Reports. In this and other areas, the CMS Secretariat welcomes the revitalized role of UNEP/DEC (Division on Environmental Conventions) in promoting synergies and co-operation between MEAs.

4. Establishment of a Global Partnership for Biodiversity

Decision VII/26 of CBD requested the Executive Secretary of the CBD in close collaboration with relevant conventions, organizations and bodies, to examine options for a flexible framework between all relevant actors, such as a “global partnership on biodiversity”, in order to enhance implementation through improved cooperation, and to report to the Eighth meeting of the CBD COP on possible way forward.

As a subset of the global partnership, and to initiate collaboration among main biodiversity-related organizations, the CBD invited concerned agencies to join the head of Agencies Task Force in Support of the Achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity target. The founding document of the Task Force was signed by UNEP, UNCTAD, UNEP, CBD, Ramsar, MS, WWF, IPGRI, IUCN during the 8th meeting of the CBD COP in March 2006. The representative of the CMS Secretariat attending the CBD COP signed the document on behalf of the CMS Executive Secretary.

The first meeting of the Task Force will be held in Gland, Switzerland, on 15 September 2006. At the time of writing, the CMS Secretariat received the annotated agenda of the meeting (document UNEP/CBD/TF.HOA/1/1Add.1). According to this document, the meeting will undertake an overview of agencies’ activities for achieving the 2010 target, focusing both on positive developments and obstacles in supporting countries and stakeholders in the achievement of the target. On this basis, the TF will have to refine the list of opportunities and options for enhancing the impact of each agency’s activities in promoting and supporting the achievement of the target. The meeting will also discuss the modus operandi and functions of the Task Force and decide on a

triennial work programme. Elements of the programme of work identified prior to the meeting (and contained in document UNEP/CBD/TF.HOA/1/2) are largely based on activities already approved by the respective governing bodies of individual agencies.

5. Other Cooperation Activities

The CMS Secretariat will provide an overview of other cooperation activities to the Standing Committee in the oral presentation of the Secretariat's report.

In the light of these developments, the Standing Committee may wish to:

- a) request the Secretariat to continue liaising with other Conventions to advance work on the achievement of the 2010 target;**
- b) request the Secretariat, pending voluntary funding, to advance work on harmonization and on-line reporting as a matter of priority, and report on achievements to the next meeting of the COP;**
- c) welcome the increased role of UNEP in advancing inter-agency work, through the organization of ad-hoc meetings and the direct support and funding of projects.**